

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 15, 17 and 20 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejection in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Johannes in view of Hawes et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 includes a combination of elements and has been amended to clarify that the vehicle seat is a primary vehicle seat that is directly attached to the vehicle, and that the tag is located adjacent to a front or rear of the seat so that a distance between the tag and an outside of the seat is small such that the identification information of the vehicle can be obtained via a tag reader placed near the tag attached inside the primary vehicle seat. Independent claims 9 and 17 include similar features in a varying scope.

These features are supported at least by Figures 2 and 3A, original dependent claims 5, 13 and 19 and paragraph [0032]. For example, Figure 2 illustrates the vehicle seat is a primary seat 90 that is directly attached to the vehicle, and Figure 3A illustrates the tag being located adjacent to a front or rear of the seat (see positions 71a or 71f) so that a distance between the tag and the outside of the seat is small such that the identification information of the vehicle can be obtained via a tag reader placed near the tag attached inside the primary vehicle seat.

The Office Action relies on Johannes as teaching a tag being mounted in the vehicle and relies on Hawes et al. as teaching the tag attached inside a vehicle seat to be sat on by a user in the vehicle. However, as discussed in the previously filed response, Johannes only discloses in Figures 1 and 2 placing electronics of an identification label in a housing 1 that is then formed around a tube of a bicycle frame. In addition, Hawes et al. merely describes placing a tag 30 (see Figure 1) inside an infant seat 10 to correctly determine that the infant seat is placed in a proper direction on the primary passenger seat 12. There is no description in either reference about

placing the tag in a primary seat at the claimed locations such that the identification information of the vehicle can be obtained via a tag reader being placed near the tag inside the primary vehicle seat.

The Office Action also indicates that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the teachings of Hawes et al. to the device of Johannes to provide a more clear interrogation of a RFID tag with less interference. However, it is respectfully noted this motivation is only that which is described in the present application (see paragraph [0032] of the present application, for example). Further, it is respectfully submitted that one skilled in the art would not combine Hawes et al., which is related to providing a tag within a child seat, with the bicycle disclosed in Johannes. That is, one skilled in the art would not place a child seat on a bicycle. Further, there is no motivation in either of these references to combine them.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1, 9 and 17 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

CONCLUSION

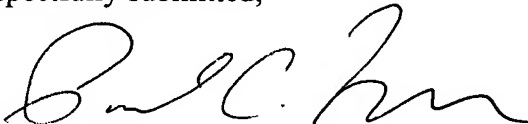
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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